

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/717,676

Examiner

Tuan A. Vu

Applicant(s)

BARTZ ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 43-60 (renum 1-18).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5/25/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the Applicant's response filed 3/20/2006.

As indicated in Applicant's response, claims 1-42 have been canceled, and claims 43-60 added. Claims 43-60 are pending in the office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ken Eiferman, Reg# 51647 on 5/24/06.

The application has been amended as follows.

In the CLAIMS:

Claim 43:

A computer-based method for reducing clutter within a comparison of documents comprising:

- receiving through a graphical user interface an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

- comparing a first level section of the documents;

- determining that there is at least one difference between the documents within the first level section;

- identifying a set of second level sections that are sub-sections of the first level section;

- comparing each of the second level sections to determine whether there is at least one difference between the documents within the second level section;

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calculating a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents;

determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences;

if not, then displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections; and

if so, then returning to the first level section and displaying an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections,

wherein either:

the first level section is a paragraph and the second level sections are lines;

or

the first level section is a line and the second level sections are characters.

Claim 49:

A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving through a graphical user interface an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

comparing a first level section of the documents;

determining that there is at least one difference between the documents within the first level section;

identifying a set of second level sections that are sub-sections of the first level section;

comparing each of the second level sections to determine whether there is at least one difference between the documents within the second level section;

calculating a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents;

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determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences;

if not, then displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections; and

if so, then returning to the first level section and displaying an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections,

wherein either:

the first level section is a paragraph and the second level sections are lines;

or

the first level section is a line and the second level sections are characters.

Claim 55:

A system for reducing clutter within a comparison of documents comprising:

the documents each comprising a first level section and a set of second level sections that are subsections of the first level section, wherein either:

the first level section is a paragraph and the second level sections are lines;

or

the first level section is a line and the second level sections are characters;

and

a computer comprising:

a graphical user interface that receives an input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of the documents;

~~an editor for displaying the comparison of the documents;~~

~~the documents each comprising a first level section and a set of second level sections that are subsections of the first level section; and~~

a merge subsystem that performs the following steps:

~~calculates~~ calculating a quantity of non-matching second level sections in which there is at least one difference between the documents, ~~and displays the differences on the editor such that:~~

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~~if the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences, then identifications of the non-matching second level sections are displayed; and~~

~~if the quantity of non-matching second level sections is not more than the maximum number of displayable differences, then an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section is displayed without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections;~~

determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the maximum number of displayable differences;

if not, then displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections; and

if so, then returning to the first level section and displaying an identification of the first level section as a non-matching section without displaying identifications of the non-matching second level sections.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 43-60 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art taken separately or jointly does not suggest or teach the following features.

A computer-implemented method for reducing clutter within a comparison of documents comprising (i) receiving from a GUI a user input corresponding to a maximum number of displayable differences per level of documents; determining differences between the documents within a first level sections; identifying and comparing a second level subsections of said determined first level sections to determine differences therein; (ii) determining whether the quantity of non-matching second level sections is more than the above maximum number of displayable differences; then, if so, returning to the first level section and displaying an

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identification of such first level of non-matching section; or if not, displaying identifications of non-matching second-level sections; (iii) wherein the first level and second level is either paragraph and line; or line and character, respectively; as recited in claims 43, 49, and 55.

Skinner, USPN: 5,481,722, discloses comparing of versioned documents according to parent/child hierarchy of documents; and based on the number of identified differences in the comparing process, creating new versions of delta file to correspond to a level of documents within a given layer of the versioned hierarchy; but does not teach receiving a maximum number as in (i), the iterative comparing using first level and second level as established from (iii) to display either one indication of a given level section or sections according to the determination of step (ii).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan A Vu whose telephone number is (272) 272-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4:30PM/Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571)272-3719.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-3735 (for non-official correspondence – please consult Examiner before

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using) or 571-273-8300 (for official correspondence) or redirected to customer service at 571-272-3609.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VAT
May 25, 2006


WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER